

Gran-Park-Rollag Parish and Living Grace Lutheran Church

In ministry partnership since 2017

Gran-Park-Rollag Parish

3 Churches – 1 Ministry: Energized by God
To celebrate, share & show God's love
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Living Grace Lutheran Church

A worshipping community of the ELCA focused on
making known God's love and grace by:
*Welcoming Everyone, Sharing Jesus' story,
Growing in faith and Serving beyond ourselves.*
Pastor Hope Deutscher
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PO Box 477, Hawley, MN 56549
Worships at The Garrick Theater,
509 Front Street, Hawley, MN 56549

Sunday, September 5, 2021

Holy Communion Worship Service

Led by Pr. Hope Deutscher and Pr. Jim Greene

Music Provided by: Pam Aakre, Piano; and Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Welcome/Announcements

- Welcome to worship for the GPR Parish and Living Grace Lutheran.
- *A Large print bulletin is available on our websites for you to use during worship.*
- We invite you to subscribe to our YouTube channel – Rollag Lutheran Church.
- *During our service, we have the following supplies reading:*
 - *Bread/crackers and wine/juice available for partaking in Virtual Holy Communion. We have communion kits available if you would like them, they have been blessed by the pastors.*

Happening This Week:

Friday, September 3-Monday, September 6: WMSTR; Rollag Food Booth.

Sunday, September 5: 7 AM Online Worship; NO In-Person Worship at Gran, Park or Rollag; we encourage you to attend the WMSTR Church Service

Tuesday, September 7: 9:30 AM Gran Ruth Circle; 7 PM Living Grace In-Person Worship

Wednesday, September 8: 10 AM Bible Study; 11 AM Staff Meeting

Thursday, September 9: 10:30 AM Hawley Ministerial

Sunday, September 12: 8 AM Gran; 9:30 AM Rollag Rally Sunday; 10:30 AM Sunday School Meet and Greet; 11 AM Park

Tuesday, September 14: 7 PM Living Grace Worship

September 12: Rally Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at Rollag

Cradle Roll; Bibles given to 3 year-olds and 3rd Graders; Blessing of the Back Packs; Installation of the Sunday School Teachers and Helpers; A time of meeting the Teachers and seeing the Classrooms. Please Check out our Facebook Page and the Newsletter for more information

Pastoral Care: Pastor Jim Greene and Pastor Hope Deutscher are available for pastoral care. If you or a loved one are hospitalized or ill, we would love to be caring for you. Please call or email us at the numbers above.

Bible and Book Studies:

- *Wednesdays at 10 AM: Bible Study – Gospel of John (In-Person at Rollag with Zoom option upon request)*
- *7 PM Monday, September 20: Women’s Book Study – “The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi” by Kathie Lee Gifford*
- *7 PM Mondays: Paul Tillich Bible Study*

Prelude: God Will Take Care of You

Pam Aakre, Piano

Welcome

Hymn: Blessed Assurance (ELW #638 / WOV #699)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

Refrain: *This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

Call to Worship

Welcome to this time of questioning expectation.

We have come here from extremely busy times.

Come and find rest. Come and find peace and direction.

This is a time of transition, from Summer into Autumn; we do not know what is to come.

Do not fear. Look with eager joy for the presence of the Lord in your life.

Open our eyes, ears, and hearts, O Lord, to receive your message of hope for us.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we bring to you our past, with all that has happened in our lives, our hopes and our dreams, our successes and our failures, our gains and our losses. We bring to you our present, lives filled with exhaustion, wonder, fear, concern. We come to you with hearts open to receive your word for us, for the future. We want to be part of making this world a better place, to serve you by serving others. Speak to us, heal us, teach us, lead us, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. **AMEN.**

Listen to the words of the Book of Ecclesiastes which reminds us that while seasons change, you are with us always:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; ⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Hear now David’s wonderings about how God who created all that we see and don’t see- has the desire and time to be with us always. We will read it responsively - reading the last verse all together.

Psalm 8

¹O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

²**Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴**what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,**

⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

⁸**the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

ALL TOGETHER: ⁹O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Hear again Jesus' charge to all of us. No matter what season of life we are in, we are all called to be God's presence as disciples in a world that always needs help. No one is to sit on the sidelines, ever.

Matthew 25: 31 - 40

³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you have asked us to feed and give drink to those who hunger, to clothe those who are naked, to welcome the stranger, to visit those who are sick and imprisoned. When we look back on this year we might be able to say we did some of those things. We remember the enthusiasm with which we started out this waning year, ready to do your work and witness to your love. But you know how things got in our way. We allowed ourselves to be swallowed up by worries and fear. We placed comfort of self before service to others. We took the "easy way out" whenever we could. And you wept for us. Now we are on the brink of the new year. We cannot change what we did not do, but we can make a covenant with you to be your witnesses in our words, thoughts and deeds to your people so that when you say, "Have you given food and drink to those who hunger and thirst, have you clothed the naked, welcomed the stranger, visited the sick and imprisoned?" We can respond with a joyful "Yes! Lord, we have done these things with joy and love!" Forgive us what we have not done. Inspire us to do what you would have us do. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

God is making all things new. The past is over and done. It taught us many lessons. But God is the God of the future, new opportunities, new hopes, new dreams, renewed vision. God dwells with us to be our God. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. AMEN.

Message Pr. Jim Greene

Contact Pastor Jim at revjamesgreene18@yahoo.com. if you want a transcript of this sermon.

Holy Communion

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in the remembrance of me. The body of Christ, given for you.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in the remembrance of me. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Hymn: *Lord, Let My Heart Good Soil* (ELW #512 / WOV #713)

Pam Aakre, Piano

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your Word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Offering

Thank you for remembering the importance of continuing to tithe your financial gifts. You can mail your offering to your church or give through Tithe.ly online (mobile and online option) or by mail. Visit livinggracehawley.org or gprparish.org for specific information.

Prayers

Let us now pray for God's blessing in the new season. You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, seasons and years. Bless us at the turning of this season of Autumn and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours in the coming of Christ. You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O Lord, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord, our Lord, how incredible and magnificent is your name in all the earth. Your voice spoke the word of light and the light was given. Your heart shouted hope and love and creation was born. Your tears cried torrents for your errant people, and your prophets boldly stepped forward to proclaim your presence. Your Love streamed down and Jesus the Christ came to

us, to heal, teach, guide, and bring us to you. This is a time of new beginnings. Let the light of your love shine on us, that we may feel and know your powerful presence with us. Let the light of your love shine in us, that we may be encouraged to use our gifts and talents to serve others. Let the light of your love shine through us, that others may come to know you. In this time of new beginnings, new hopes arise. Give us courage to reach out for new dreams and hopes; give us confidence that we can accomplish much for you as we remember how you taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. Forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Go from this place to bring hope, love, joy and peace to all you meet,

Remembering God is always with us.

Go in Peace and Serve the Lord **As we Celebrate, Share, and Show God's Love**

Hymn: Go My Children With My Blessing (ELW #781/WOV #721)

Pam Aakre, Piano; Pr. Hope Deutscher, Flute

Verse 1: *"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."*

Verse 2: *"Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."*

Verse 3: *"Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."*

Thank you for worshipping with us!